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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/081,316	<b>Applicant(s)</b> ESKANDARI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Rutao Wu	<b>Art Unit</b> 3639	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/25/02, 4/15/02, 7/01/02</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 8-11, 14-17, 19, 21-22, 29-31, 33, 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat No. 6,462,286 to Schwartz et al.

#### **Referring to claim 8:**

A method for customizing a franking system, comprising the steps of:

Providing a franking system having a plurality of disabled operating features; (col 10: lines 55-56)

Selecting at least one of the plurality of disabled operating features from the plurality of disabled operating features for enabling for use in the franking system; (col 10: lines 12-16, 55-63)

Storing the at least one of the selected disabled operating features in a parameter set;

Schwartz et al discloses software necessary for running system 10 are stored in memory section 250. (col 7: lines 57-58) Schwartz et al further disclosed an application module where software necessary for running different system options and Operating system are stored. (col 9: lines 13-16; col 10: lines 10-11) Therefore it is an inherent feature of Schwartz et al's invention to store a list of features operated by software.

Generating an authorization code based on the parameter set for enabling the selected disabled operating features of the franking system; and (col 10: lines 17-25)

Entering the authorization code into the franking system wherein each of the selected disabled operating features are enabled. (col 10: lines 17-25)

**Referring to claim 9:**

The method of claim 8, wherein the step of providing the franking system having at least one of a plurality of disabled operating features, operating features can include a dynamic scale or a static scale. (col 10: lines 52-54)

**Referring to claim 10:**

The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of providing the franking system having a plurality of disabled operating features, one of the operating features is a type of accounting system. (col 2: lines 34-37)

**Referring to claim 11:**

The method of claim 8, wherein the step of generating an authorization code based on the parameter for enabling the selected operating features of the franking system includes the steps of:

Transmitting the parameter set to a third party; and

Schwartz et al discloses that the authorization number is generated outside of system 10 and then provided to the user. The authorization number includes items such as the serial number of the system 10, the model number of software, a 32-bit option number whose bit pattern corresponds to a particular combination of enabled and disabled system options. (col 10: lines 17-27) Since the authorization number is generated outside of system 10, there must be a method of transmitting the above information to the party that is generating the authorization number. Therefore it is an inherent feature to transmit.

Receiving the authorization code from the third party. (col 10: lines 17-18)

**Referring to claim 14:**

The method of claim 8, wherein for each of the selected disabled operating features in the parameter set, determining if an additional operating feature is necessary for operation of the selected operating features, and if so, including the additional operating feature in the parameter set. (col 10: lines 15-17)

**Referring to claim 15:**

The method of claim 14, wherein the step of determining if an additional operating feature is necessary for operation of the selected operating features includes determining a postal carrier for which the franking system will be used. (col 13: lines 64-67, col 14: lines 1-2)

**Referring to claim 16:**

The method of claim 8, further including the step of determining a unique serial number for the at least one of the selected disabled operating features and the additional operating feature for each of the selected disabled operating features, and adding the unique serial number to the parameter set. (col 10: lines 17-27)

**Referring to claim 17:**

The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of entering the authorization code into the franking system, the entry of the authorization code determines the enabling and disabling of a unique group of operating features, which are not the same as the operating features which are enabled and disabled by the entry of another authorization code. (col 10: lines 17-27)

**Referring to claim 19:**

The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of entering the authorization code into the franking system, the authorization code is entered into the franking system from a franking system input device. (col 11: lines 46-49)

**Referring to claim 21:**

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The method of claim 8, wherein in the step of providing the franking system having a plurality of disabled operating features, one of the operating features is a rate package. (col 9: lines 25-30)

**Referring to claim 22:**

The method of claim 6, wherein in the step of providing the franking system having a plurality of disabled operating features, one of the operating features static weighing for a dynamic scale. (col 10: lines 52-55)

**Referring to claim 29:**

A method of exchanging a primary computerized system having enabled and disabled operating features for a secondary computerized system having identical enabled and disabled operating features, comprising the steps of:

Accessing customization parameters of the primary computerized system which define the enabled and the disabled operating features of the primary computerized system;(col 12: lines 54-59)

Storing the customization parameters for preserving the enabled and disabled operating features of the primary computerized system; and (col 12: lines 58-59)

Installing the customization parameters in a secondary computerized system for duplicating the enabled and disabled operating features of the primary computerized system in the secondary computerized system by loading the stored customization parameters into the secondary computerized system. (col 12: lines 50-54)

**Referring to claim 30:**

The method of claim 29, wherein the primary computerized system is a franking system and the secondary computerized system is another franking system. (col 12: lines 46-49)

**Referring to claim 31:**

A method for enabling an additional operating feature of a franking system, comprising the steps of:

Providing a franking system having at least one disabled operating feature, and at least one operating feature which is enabled and available for use; (col 10: lines 13-17)

Selecting the new operating feature for adding to the franking system from the at least one disabled operating feature; (col 10: lines 55-56)

Generating an authorization code associated with the enabled operating features and the selected disabled operating feature for enabling the selected disabled operating feature and the enabled operating features; and (col 10: lines 17-27)

Entering the authorization code into the franking system for enabling the selected disabled operating feature and the enabled operating features. (col 10: lines 13-15)

**Referring to claim 33:**

The method of claim 31, wherein the step of generating an authorization code includes the steps of:

Transmitting the enabled operating features and the selected disabled operating feature to a third party; and



Schwartz et al discloses that the authorization number is generated outside of system 10 and then provided to the user. The authorization number includes items such as the serial number of the system 10, the model number of software, a 32-bit option number whose bit pattern corresponds to a particular combination of enabled and disabled system options. (col 10: lines 17-27) Since the authorization number is generated outside of system 10, there must be a method of transmitting the above information to the party that is generating the authorization number. Therefore it is an inherent feature to transmit.

Receiving the authorization code from the third party. (col 10: lines 17-18)

**Referring to claim 35:**

The method of claim 33, wherein the step of transmitting the enabled operating features and the selected disabled operating feature to the third party includes the step of transmitting via the internet to the third party. (col 22: lines 11-16, Fig 33)

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S.

Pat No. 6,167,383 to Henson.

**Referring to claim 1:**

A method for customizing a computerized system having a plurality of operating features, including the steps of:

Selecting at least one independent parameter from a predefined list of independent parameters for selecting at least one of the operating features of the customized computerized system, and storing the selected independent parameter in a parameter set; (Fig 3A-6)

Selecting at least one secondary parameter from a predefined list of secondary parameters for enabling the at least one of the selected operating features, wherein the secondary parameters are associated with the at least one independent parameter, and storing the at least one selected secondary parameter in the parameter set; (Fig 3A-6)

Determining at least one dependent parameter for configuring the computerized system, wherein the dependent parameter is generated from a predefined list of dependent parameters in accordance with the parameter set, and adding the dependent parameter to the parameter set; (Fig 3A-6)

Installing a compilation of parameters in the customized computerized system, the compilation of parameters generated from the parameter set, wherein the compilation of parameters enable the selected operating features of the customized computerized system. (col 2: lines 61-64)

**Referring to claim 24:**

A production system for generating a customized computerized system having a plurality of flexible operating features, comprising:

A customer sheet system for recording the selection of an operating feature from a list of predefines operating features, and for generating at least one independent parameter; (Fig 3A-6)

A parameter set for storing the at least one independent parameter; (Fig 3A-6)

A manufacture parameter system for providing at least one secondary parameter associated with the at least one independent parameter for implementing the selected operating feature, and for storing the at least one secondary parameter in the parameter set; (Fig 3A-6)

A configuration parameter system for generating at least one dependent parameter based on the independent parameter and the secondary parameter for configuring the customized computerized system, and for adding the at least one dependent parameter to the parameter set; and(Fig 3A-6)

An input device for entering a compilation of parameters in the customized computerized system for configuring the customized computerized system, the compilation of parameters generated from the parameter set by the configuration parameter system. (col 2: lines 65-67; Fig 3A-6)

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 12, 13, 18, 34, 36, 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al.

As per claims 13, 36, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose receiving said authorization code from said third party includes receiving said authorization code via the internet.

Schwartz does disclose downloading data such as the rate schedule data and the zip/zone data, and the carrier service application program to system 10 for updating the system through the communications network (col 22: lines 13-16, Fig 33).

Therefore, it is reasonable for Schwartz et al's invention to be able to receive authorization code via the internet from the third party, as updating system 10 requires the authorization code, therefore it would be more efficient to receive the authorization code with the system updates together through the communication network.

As per claims 12, 34, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose wherein said third party is the manufacturer of said franking system.

It is a norm in the industry when installing new software or hardware to get the drivers or software licenses/activation codes from the manufacture of the hardware or software. Schwartz et al discloses that the authorization number is generated outside of system 10 and provided to the user, thereby disclosing a third party who generate and provide the authorization number. Therefore, according to the standard of the business, the third party providing the authorization code is the manufacture of modules.

As per claims 18 and 37, wherein entering said authorization code into said postage meter further includes creating an update chip card having the authorization code for releasing said disable operator feature for use and inserting the update chip card into said postage meter and loading said authorization code from the chip card into said postage meter.

Schwartz et al discloses using IC cards to store new application code for updating stored programs. (col 10: lines 6-11) The examiner submits that it is obvious to use the IC card to load the authorization number because it does not require any modification to Schwartz et al's invention since it already has the ability and program to read and write from the IC card.

8. Claim 20 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al in view of U.S. Pat No. 5,898,785 to Cornell et al.

As per claim 20, Schwartz et al does not expressly disclose transporting means, therefore, does not disclose a selection of letter flow speed.

Cornell et al discloses a transport module (col 1: lines 36-55). It is an inherent function of a transport module to have the ability of changing the speed to which envelopes move from a feeding position to the postage meter printing device. It is an inherent feature because it must be able to vary the speed to be the most efficient, not creating a backlog with too slow of a speed, or starvation with too fast of a speed.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a

transport module comprising means for transporting a document. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by indicating that it was an object of the invention to provide interface capabilities for the system 10 to communicate with other devices such a one or more printers, a postage meter, a remote computer, an optical scanner, an integrated circuit card, etc. (col 2: lines 43-47)

9. Claims 23, 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al in view of U.S. Pat No. 4,974,151 to Advani et al.

As per claims 23 and 38, Schwartz et al discloses requiring an authorization code for modifications to the system, Schwartz et al does not disclose wherein the step of entering an authorization code into the franking system disables the operation of unauthorized operating features and unauthorized devices connected to the franking system.

Advani et al disclose the option to delete a device (col 5: lines 25-28)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to include a delete feature. One would be motivated to perform such modification to be able to uninstall software or devices that is not authorized, outdate software or devices, or software or devices that is cause problems when working in conjunction with other.

10. Claims 5, 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henson.

As per claims 5, 25, Henson discloses operating system parameter parameters for defining at least one operating system feature, current component parameters for defining a group of components for assembling the customized computerized system, and default parameters for defining independent parameters which are required and have not been selected. (Fig 3A-6)

Henson fail to expressly disclose a carrier parameters for defining at least one carrier operating feature.

However, the difference between operating system and carrier operating feature are only found in the non-functional descriptive material and are not functionally involved in the steps recited. The defining, selecting parameters for assembly and enabling steps would be performed the same regardless of the descriptive material since none of the steps explicitly interact therewith. Limitations that are not functionally interrelated with the useful acts, structure, or properties of the claimed invention carry little or no patentable weight. Thus, this descriptive material will not distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art in terms of patentability, see *In re Ngai*, 70 USPQ2d 1862 (CAFC 2004); *In re Gulack*, 703 F.2d 1381, 1385, 217 USPQ 401, 404 (Fed. Cir. 1983); *In re Lowry*, 32 F.3d 1579, 32 USPQ2d 1031 (Fed. Cir. 1994).

Therefore, it would also have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to including carrier parameters for defining at least one carrier operating feature, current component parameters for defining a group of components for assembling the customized computerized system, and default

parameters for defining independent parameters which are required and have not been selected in a franking system.

As per claim 26, Henson further discloses, The production system of claim 25, wherein the input device is at least one of a keyboard, and audio input device, a video input device, a CD-ROM reader, a chip card reader, or a computer network. (col 5: lines 66-67; col 6: lines 1-4)

11. Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 27, 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Henson in view of Schwartz et al.

As per claim 2, Henson does not disclose storing the compilation of parameters in a chip card for installing the customized computerized system.

Schwartz et al does disclose step of storing the compilation of parameters in a chip card for installing in the customized computerized system. (col 10: lines 6-8)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Henson's invention to include the ability of installing via chip card as presented by Schwartz et al. One would be motivated to perform such modification because they are both in the same field of endeavor, both customizing a customizable computer system.

As per claim 3, Henson doesn't expressly disclose the limitations

However, Schwartz et al does disclose the following limitations:

Transmitting the parameter set to a third party;



Schwartz et al discloses that the authorization number is generated outside of system 10 and then provided to the user. The authorization number includes items such as the serial number of the system 10, the model number of software, a 32-bit option number whose bit pattern corresponds to a particular combination of enabled and disabled system options. (col 10: lines 17-27) Since the authorization number is generated outside of system 10, there must be a method of transmitting the above information to the party that is generating the authorization number. Therefore it is an inherent feature to transmit.

Receiving the compilation of parameters from the third party, wherein the compilation of parameters is an authorization code; and (col 10 lines 17-18)

Entering the authorization code in the computerized system to enable the selected operating features. (col 10: lines 12-14)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Henson's invention to include the ability of installing via chip card as presented by Schwartz et al. One would be motivated to perform such modification because they are both in the same field of endeavor, both customizing a customizable computer system.

As per claims 4, Henson does not expressly disclose receiving said authorization code from said third party includes receiving said authorization code via the internet.

Schwartz does disclose downloading data such as the rate schedule data and the zip/zone data, and the carrier service application program to system 10 for updating the system through the communications network (col 22: lines 13-16, Fig 33).

Therefore, it is reasonable for Schwartz et al's invention to be able to receive authorization code via the internet from the third party, as updating system 10 requires the authorization code, therefore it would obvious to modify Henson's invention to be more efficient to receive the authorization code with the system updates together through the communication network.

As per claim 6, Henson does not expressly disclose the limitations

However, Schwartz et al does disclose the following limitations:

Determining a unique serial number for the at least one of the selected operating features of the customized computerized system, and (col 10: lines 17-25)

Adding the unique serial number to the parameter set. (col 11: lines 15-26)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Henson's invention to include the ability of installing via chip card as presented by Schwartz et al. One would be motivated to perform such modification because they are both in the same field of endeavor, both customizing a customizable computer system.

As per claims 7 and 28, Henson discloses customized computer systems, but does not expressly disclose wherein the customized computerized system is a franking system.

Schwartz et al discloses a customizable computerized franking machine. (col 2: lines 42-47)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Henson's invention to customize a franking

system. Schwartz et al provides specific motivation by presenting a franking system that is centrally controlled by a customizable computer system.

As per claim 27, Henson does not expressly disclose the compilation of parameters is an authorization code.

Schwartz et al discloses receiving an authorization code from a third party generated from numerous parameters. (col 10: lines 17-26)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Henson's invention to include generating authorization code disclosed by Schwartz et al. One would be motivated to perform such a modification because it is more convenient for the user to just request a authorization code from the manufacture or a third party to enable new features instead of order the necessary software to enable the options, wait for the software to arrive, and finally download it to the system.

12. Claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al in view of Henson.

As per claim 32, Schwartz et al does not disclose the step of generating a revenue request for the selected disabled operating feature.

Henson discloses sending the customer an invoice for the cost of the customized computer system. (Fig 6)

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Schwartz et al's invention to generate and

sent a invoice to the user for enabling previously disabled features. One would be motivated to perform such a modification because it is a well known economic practice to charge for service performed.

### ***Conclusion***

13. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims below for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested that the applicant, in preparing the responses, fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Pat No. 5,206,812 to Abumehdi.

U.S. Pat No. 5,257,197 to Guenther et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,029,155 to Bass et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,064,991 to Reisinger et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,076,081 to Bass et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,111,951 to Guenther.

U.S. Pat No. 6,199,752 to Bornemann et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,282,590 to Ellis et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,378,012 to Bass et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,385,597 to Guenther et al.

U.S. Pat No. 6,418,422 to Guenther et al.

U.S. Pat No. 5,555,416 to Owens et al.

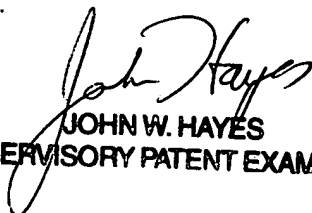
U.S. Pat No. 5,748,980 to Lip et al.

U.S. Pat No. 5,844,554 to Geller et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Rutao Wu whose telephone number is (571)272-3136. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Hayes can be reached on (571)272-6708. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
JOHN W. HAYES  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER